

Whether you come as a searcher, stranger, faithful member or friend, your presence expands our faith community and enriches the fellowship of this church. We welcome you in friendship and in faith. We care for you in spirit and in deed, through Jesus Christ, the foundation of our faith and our window upon spiritual life.

December 25, 2016

Christmas Day

9:15 AM

As a courtesy to other worshipers, please turn your cell phones off or to vibrate. Thank you.

PRELUDE

John Douglas

SHARING OF OUR FELLOWSHIP

Pastor Kel Henderson

INTROIT

Siberian Sleigh Ride
Trans-Siberian Orchestra

John Douglas &
Jeffrey Segal

CALL TO WORSHIP

Michelle Trumbo, Liturgist

One: On Christmas Day, we find ourselves wrapped in the season of wonder and light, and feel, if only for a day, that all is as it was meant to be.

Many: **The astonishment of life ignites our spirits. May we hold fast to the birth of divine mystery, the truth upon which our life depends.**

One: May we call ourselves back to it time and time again, until we are filled with wonder that our life is hope, is peace, is joy, is love.

Many: **May our energies be given to the transformation of this world, from despair into hope, from darkness into light, from fear to love.**

One: May we be bold. May we be daring. May we be Christ in the world.

Prayer: **Birth God, let Christmas love flow from our hearts with abundance filling every moment with the gifts of hope, peace and joy. May Christ birth be known truly and deeply that all who encounter it be charged with its message and become agents of love. May the Holy Child teach us that we are nothing without each other. Let us live then in the blessing of Christmas. Amen.**

OPENING SONG (please stand if able) *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Please greet those around you after this song, and then be seated. Thank you.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Mike Holland

Please sign the blue Fellowship Tablet at this time, pass it to the person next to you and return it to the center aisle when everyone has signed. We invite guests to share addresses and phone #s.

Merry Christmas



Please take your Poinsettia with you following the service today.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED TOMORROW, Dec. 26 in observation of Christmas Day.

Pastor Mike will be on vacation December 26 through January 2, 2017. If you need Pastoral assistance during this time, call Pastor Kel Henderson at 714-465-6991.

NEW YEAR NEW START TIME!

Reminder that worship will begin NEXT SUNDAY, Jan 1 at 9:45 AM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14: *A Letter to Anita* will be shown in the Fellowship Hall. This is the heart-wrenching story of Anita Bryant's anti-gay campaign, it's shattering effect on one Florida family, and the redemptive power of forgiveness. Sponsored by ONA (Open & Affirming) Ministry. See Carmen Mercado for more information.

WE ARE UPDATING THE CHURCH DIRECTORY for 2017. We will be emailing the directory to everyone, so please look over your information and make any needed changes, corrections, deletions, and send back to the church office. Also, **email a picture** of your family to churchoffice@chotf.org and it will be included as well! Thanks.



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: to date we have received 52 pledges totaling \$140,846. **2017 ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARDS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX. ALSO REMEMBER TO COMPLETE ALL 2016 PLEDGES TO THE CHURCH BY DEC 31. THANKS TO ALL WHO GIVE.**

From the desk of the Financial Secretary: Dan Griset was inadvertently left off the list of donors for the Cantata. Thank you Dan!. ~ Carol Rosholm



a retreat weekend for all middle and high school youth in the Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ!

This year's theme is "Into Uncharted Territory"

Winter Wonder Camp will take place over the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Weekend, January 13-16, 2017 at Pilgrim Pines

Please register here: <https://goo.gl/forms/Vsp7W3VNrxFmtcEF2>

For questions, please email pilgrimpinescamp@gmail.com or call (909) 566-CAMP



SONG (please remain seated) *One Candle is Lit, vs. 5*

LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE Shanta Wilson & Ace Briggs and Naya & Anya Briggs-Wilson

SPECIAL MUSIC *Journey of Simeon* Monty Linton and Jamie Dann
By Camp Kirkland and Tom Fettke

CHILDREN & YOUTH MOMENT with Robbie Arevalos, Youth Director

CHURCH SCHOOL Children and youth are excused to Sunday School
*Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere, you may go.*

MORNING PRAYERS

Sharing Joys & Concerns The Congregation

Cards are available in the pew racks; please fill out and place in offering plate.

Debbie Hollister for myself & Bree Turner. Joan Kaul & Judy Campbell for Claire, Kelly & family, Susan & Larry, Karen & John, Colleen & Melody, Heim family, Gemma & family, Boehart family, Alan H., Hubbards, S.W. Lorinda Kasten-Lowerre for spouse Jim & people taking pay cuts or are out of work. Wendy Moldovan for daughter Leigh Anna Dixon. Jim & Keni Cox for neighbor Christine & friend Terri. Miguel Magaña for grandmother Maria Elena Roque. Inge Winbigler for daughter's friend Sidney Sigafus. Elaine Bredenbeck for brother-in-law Larry Sphatt; friend Elizabeth Rundgren; son Todd Bredenbeck. Colleen & Melody for brother Ron & nephew Adam.

Quiet Meditation

Pastoral Prayer

Christmas Day Prayer

Goddess of heaven, the day of joy returns. Help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the wisdom of the magi. Close the doors of hate and open the doors of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing that Christ brings and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May Christmas morning make us happy to be Your children, and Christmas evening bring us to our bed with grateful hearts. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow* Kathy Dunlap
Arr. by Mark Hayes

READING

Matthew 2:19-23

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MESSAGE

*Celebrating Christmas,
and Asking: What's Next?*

Pastor Mike Holland

HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP

(please stand) *Go Tell It On The Mountain* Page 154

A TIME FOR GIVING

(Online giving is an option through churchofthefoothills.org)

Sharing Our Faith

Michelle Trumbo, Elder

SPECIAL MUSIC

Journey to the Manger
By Camp Kirkland and Tom Fettke

Kathy Dunlap &

Maren Eriksen

Receiving of Gifts

BENEDICTION

Pastor Mike Holland

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Joy to the World, vs. 1

POSTLUDE

John Douglas

*Anyone desiring to be a disciple of Christ and member of this church
is encouraged to speak to the minister after the service.*

Be sure to place your food or cash donations for Southwest Community Center
in the shopping cart located in the fellowship hall.

You can hear today's service, and download an mp3 file, from our website at:
www.churchofthefoothills.org

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship for coffee and refreshments.

Interested in knowing more about "Progressive Christian" faith?
Copies of Dr. Marcus Borg's book, *The Heart of Christianity*, available at the Kiosk
(\$10 donation)

The Use of Inclusive Language

Our church believes the Holy or Divine Spirit can be experienced as both male and female
gender. We use inclusive language such as God, Goddess, Creator, Christ, Logos or
Sophia to express the universal nature of this Spirit. Sophia (Greek word for Wisdom) is
used for Christ in the New Testament.

Matthew 2:19-23

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in
Egypt and said, ²⁰'Get up, take the child and mother, and go to the land of Israel, for
those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child
and mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was
ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, Joseph was afraid to go there. And after
being warned in a dream, Joseph went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made
their home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the
prophets might be fulfilled, 'the Messiah will be called a Nazorean.'

In Need of Prayers?

If you would like to request prayers for yourself or others, please contact the church office at
churchoffice@chotf.org or 714-544-1319.

Our Philosophy of Worship

Recognizing the diversity of personal preferences, taste and interest in the people who worship here at
Church of the Foothills, we are committed to a "blended" approach in our service that includes
traditional, classical, contemporary, gospel, folk, modern, and other types of music. We hope the
richness of the worship experience will enhance the spiritual life and faith of all who participate. Please
address any suggestions, questions or concerns to Pastor Mike, the Elders or the Worship Committee.
Thank you for participating in our worship service today.

Small Group Ministries provide opportunity to share spiritual fellowship, activities, support and mission
projects with others. For more information about the following Small Group Ministries, please contact:

Bridge Club

Chancel Choir

Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF)

Family Promise (homeless families with children)

Foothills Fellowship

Hearts & Minds

Mixed Media (arts, plays, movies)

Monday Night Study Group

ONA (LGBTQI) Ministry

PB&J (Peace, Benevolence & Justice)

Sacred Seasons Center

Soup Kitchen (feeding the homeless)

Gloria Wildman

Tina Peterson

Esther Gressard

Jack Provencio

Jennifer Surges

Colleen & Melody Taylor

Suvan Geer

Kathy Dunlap

Lianne Oakes

Carmen Mercado

Rosadelia Mercado

Keni Cox

Sunny Erickson

Rev. Susan Chamberlain

Dan Griset

Carmen Mercado

In addition to Small Groups, Church of the Foothills offers a host of Ministry Teams as a way to
be involved in church, community and around the world for peace, love and justice. Just
complete and turn in the **Passion and Gifts Survey on the table in the Narthex**. Thanks

WELCOME!

We are glad you are with us this morning. Please use the blue Friendship Booklet from the pew rack:

- To include your name, address and phone number
- To get a message to the minister
- To indicate your interest in church membership

If you are a visitor, please take one of the name badges (located in the Friendship Booklet) write your name on it and wear it so that we may recognize you as our guest, greet you by name and extend to you our hand of friendship. Packets for visitors are available outside the sanctuary at the Information Booth and by the board for name tags. **Telex Sound Enhancement receivers are available in the narthex for the convenience of the hearing impaired.**

Infant & Toddler care is offered in the nursery.

Need someone to talk with about life and faith? For pastoral assistance: Pastor Mike is available during office hours of 9-2, M-T-Th; for other times call 714-423-0182. For an Elder, call the church office at 714-544-1319. For a trained Stephen Minister, call 714-798-4479 or visit http://www.fcco-doc.org/ministries/stephen_ministry.php for more info. Peace to you.

Elders for the week: Michelle Trumbo
AV Technicians: Justin Underwood, Dean Delgado, María Pérez,
Anthony Henderson & Krista Owens
Digital Recording: Justin Underwood

THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES, December 25 -- 31, 2016

Today 12/25
9:15 AM **Morning Worship**
9:30 AM **Sunday School** - Ages Pre-K through Senior High
(Nursery available for infants & toddlers)
10:15 AM **Fellowship/Coffee time** - Fellowship Hall *(remember to bring goodies to share during the month of your birthday!)*

Mon. 12/26
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Wed. 12/28
SUNDAY BULLETIN AND WEEKLY E-REMINDER ARTICLES DUE
10:00 AM CWF, Fireside Room

Church of the Foothills

United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

19211 Dodge Avenue, Santa Ana, California 92705, (714) 544-1319, Fax (714) 573-7722

Website: www.churchofthefoothills.org E-mail: churchoffice@chotf.org